



# Advocates for Children of New York

Protecting every child's right to learn

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## News Release

### For Immediate Release

**Contact:** Isabella Rieke, *Communications Manager* • 646-871-6739 • [irieke@afcnyc.org](mailto:irieke@afcnyc.org)

**May 13, 2020 (NEW YORK CITY)** — Today, Kim Sweet, Executive Director of Advocates for Children of New York (AFC), issued the following statement in response to Mayor de Blasio's announcement about offers to New York City Pre-K programs:

While we are pleased that a record number of families received an offer to their first choice Pre-K program and that there are Pre-K seats left for families who did not yet apply, we are gravely concerned about preschoolers with disabilities who have a legal right to a preschool special education class but do not have one due to the City's shortage. Hundreds of preschoolers with disabilities were sitting at home prior to the pandemic and may have nowhere to go to school when buildings reopen. The City's plan for reopening schools must include ensuring there is a seat for every preschooler with a disability who needs one.

### **About Advocates for Children of New York (AFC)**

Since 1971, Advocates for Children of New York has worked to ensure a high-quality education for New York students who face barriers to academic success, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds who are at greatest risk for failure or discrimination in school because of their poverty, disability, race, ethnicity, immigrant or English Language Learner status, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, or involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems. AFC uses four integrated strategies: free advice and legal representation for families of students; free trainings and workshops for parents, communities, and educators and other professionals to equip them to advocate on behalf of students; policy advocacy to effect change in the education system and improve education outcomes; and impact litigation to protect the right to quality education and compel needed reform.